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HSC Briefing

Review Staff: 75/3704  
30 December 1975

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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29 December - Participants: Aaron Donner and Jack  
Boos of the House Select Committee and Scott

[REDACTED]

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The purpose of this meeting was twofold. . . first to let the HSC know that the Agency did not draw any direct connection between the HSC's investigative activities and the assassination of Richard Welch in Athens; and secondly, to caution the HSC in the light of Mr. Welch's death about the dangers of giving publicity to Agency personnel.

Mr. Boos, who had called on December 23 to express sympathy, showed a good deal of curiosity about the circumstances attending Mr. Welch's death. He asked if this was the first such case and further wondered if any Agency people would be withdrawn as a result of possible threats against them.

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Mr. Donner reported that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] is running for Congress in Florida and is making a flat accusation that Congressional investigations led to Mr. Welch's death. This information had come to Donner from Mr. Lehman, a HSC member whose tenure in the House is being threatened by [REDACTED].

Mr. Boos was of the opinion that during the report-writing phase protection of individuals should pose no major problem for the Agency or the HSC. He said that in a few cases the HSC might wish to indicate foreign recipients of Agency aid. It was pointed out to Mr. Boos that we would hope to work out a means whereby the HSC could tell its story without jeopardizing individuals. At the end of the meeting the HSC representatives thanked us for coming. Their sober concern showed throughout the 40 minute

meeting. They seemed to be entirely sincere. In closing they asked if the Agency might make a statement "clearing" the Congressional investigations of any direct responsibility for Mr. Welch's death. They were told that the matter would be looked into.

In a similar meeting with the SSC, William Miller, SSC Chief of Staff, made the following comments about the HSC:

A. The HSC has been "in no position" to draft any specific legislative proposals.

B. Because of the "Harrington Affair" Miller did not believe that any proposals drafted by the HSC could "get out of Committee" in the House.

C. He felt that the House would play an entirely reactive role to legislative proposals which his committee has in final draft form.

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